



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

## August 26, 2014 Minutes

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on August 26, 2014 at the Family Resource Center, 817 North Country Club Road, Mesa, Arizona 85201. Chair David welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

### **Members Present**

Chair Anna David, Vice Chair Detza Van Bogaert, Council Members Jamie Breau, Abigail Conley, Sherreis Moreland, Maggie Pfaffenberger, Chris Scarpati, and Dee Tamminen (appearing telephonically).

### **Members Absent**

Jack Dillenberg

### **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2014**

Council Member Scarpati moved to accept the July 22, 2014 minutes. Council Member Van Bogaert seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously 7-0, Council Member Moreland having not yet arrived.

### **Call to the Public**

Cathy Otto with Southwest Institute of Families and Children stated that she took multiple directors to the Summit and that all enjoyed it very much.

Let the record reflect that Council Member Moreland arrived at 4:11 p.m.

Jessica Black with Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services stated that the teen pregnancy rate has dropped significantly; however, it is still an issue.

Let the record reflect that Council Member Tamminen joined the meeting telephonically at 4:16 p.m.

### **Presentation on 2014 Regional Needs and Assets Report**

Chair David introduced and welcomed John Daws, Research Scientist with the Norton School of the University of Arizona. Mr. Daws reviewed his PowerPoint presentation with highlights of the region. He stated that health insurance enrollment is improving; however, there is no current data as to changes due to the Affordable Care Act. Pursuant to a question from Council Member Van Bogaert, Regional Director Melde will be gathering trend information.

Regional Director Melde then led a discussion with the Council members asking them about anything specific they read in the report about the communities in the region. It was noted that Queen Creek actually had the highest median income for the region. It was also noted that there are a large number of charter schools in Queen Creek. As to preschool, many charter schools cannot guarantee entrance into the charter schools for the other grades; therefore, there is a lottery for kindergarten. For some of the other charter schools, however, they are actually requiring students to be in preschool at their school in order to get into the school for kindergarten. There was a question if that was allowable for charter schools, and Regional Director Melde stated she will look into the bylaws to see if it is permissible.



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As to Apache Junction, Council Member Tamminen said she hadn't realized that the recession had hit so hard in that area and also that there were few preschools, with a lot of children being watched by their grandparents. It was also noted that there is a lower income zip code in East Mesa with the same issue.

The strengths and needs as identified in the Needs and Assets Report were categorized in to Family Support, Health and Early Learning with Council members being asked to identify additional strengths and needs for those priority areas. Council Member Van Bogaert asked if Head Start teachers are able to access TEACH scholarships or not. Regional Director Melde stated she would find out what the linkage is between First Things First programs and Head Start.

Council Member Breau moved to approve the 2014 Southeast Maricopa Region's Needs and Assets Report as presented by the University of Arizona. Council Member Moreland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously, 8-0.

## **Quarter 4 Grantee Narrative Reports**

Regional Director Melde reviewed the fourth quarter narrative reports with the Council members. She stated that the final numbers for the financials are not prepared as of yet since the FY14 contracts are being closed out at this time.

## **Community Outreach Update**

Community Outreach Coordinator John Taylor provided an update to the Council Members on the Regional Implementation Plan and answered specific questions which Council members had asked at a previous meeting. He also noted that there is a new "Take Action" button in the upper right-hand corner of the First Things First website home page.

## **Regional Director's Update**

Regional Director Melde stated that the First Things First Board did approve separation of scholarships from the Quality First package. An in-depth summary is included in Attachment 4, which does include separating the scholarship costs from the Quality First improvement costs; however, there is no reduction in the number of providers enrolled in the program.

Regional Director Melde stated that a grantee meeting will be held on August 27, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. at the Mesa main library and invited Council members to attend.

Regional Director Melde reminded Council members that all training and paperwork needs to be completed by September 30, 2014.

## **Council Member Updates**

Council Member Moreland stated that she enjoyed the Summit.

Council Member Tamminen announced that she has a new grandson.

Council Member Conley stated that she especially enjoyed the funding workshop at the Summit and found it very helpful.

In response to a question from Chair David, Senior Director Sabatini noted that RFGA's will be staggered to include some being approved as soon as May, 2015.

Chair David announced that interviews will be held on Tuesday, September 2 for the School Administrator seat.



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**Adjourn**

Chair David adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Submitted by:

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**Caitlyn Hollins, Administrative Assistant III  
Maricopa Regions**

**Approved:**

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**Anna David, Regional Council Chair**